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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 29, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB WOODALL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

THE END OF AN ERA IN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, what I'm about to announce will not come as much of a surprise. But we all know that this institution has an abysmally low approval rating, and the American people are asking for change in Congress. And so I'm announcing today that I will leave the Congress at the end of this year.

Now, I take the unusual step of announcing it from here in the well of the

House because I am a proud institutionalist. I believe that this institution is as great as it has ever been. Mr. Speaker, I announce it from here because, between the Rules Committee upstairs where you serve with me, Mr. Speaker pro tem, and the House floor, this is where the people of California sent me to represent them.

Now, as we look at the challenges that lie ahead, they are very, very great. I deliberated over this decision, and I have to say that 3 years ago I contemplated leaving at the end of that Congress, but ultimately made a decision that I wanted to continue to serve through this term. I wanted to do so in hopes that we would win the majority, with a goal of pursuing the four-point platform that I had always run on, that being the pursuit of a free economy, limited government, a strong national defense, and personal freedom. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to work with not just my Republican colleagues, but my Democratic colleagues as well, working in a bipartisan way to accomplish a number of things.

First, it was absolutely essential that we do everything to end the course that we had been on that ultimately brought us an 82 percent increase in nondefense discretionary spending. I'm happy to say that we've turned the corner on that.

Second, after years of languishing, we were finally able to pass three trade agreements that will create good jobs for union and nonunion workers in this country by virtue of having passed the Panama, Colombia, and South Korea free trade agreements.

I also believe that it's very important for us to recognize, as we look at our national security, the notion of people all over the world who are seeking to determine their own futures has created a wonderful opportunity for us. The House Democracy Partnership, another strong bipartisan organization, has just now partnered with its 17th

country in central Asia to help the legislative body strengthen and have the kind of independence and oversight of their executive branch that we have a tendency to take for granted here.

Fourth, Mr. Speaker, I feel very strongly—again, working in a bipartisan way—that it was essential to ensure that both Democrats and Republicans have the opportunity to have their ideas heard through their amendments on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Now, I do believe, again, Mr. Speaker, that this is the greatest deliberative body known to man. We've got a great deal of work that lies ahead throughout this year. But I'm looking forward to following the Madisonian directive—that Members of Congress, after serving here, should go out and live with the laws that have passed. I will say that, as passionate as we've been pursuing a pro-growth jobs-creating agenda, I look forward to doing that myself as I move into the private sector next year.

Mr. Speaker, I will say that I want to express my appreciation. I want to express my appreciation, Mr. Speaker, to lots of people. Of course the volunteers, family and friends, supporters, and the people who have offered prayers for our country on a regular basis. I also want to, most important, express my appreciation, Mr. Speaker, to the people of California who, back in 1978, when I was 25 years old living in a dormitory at my alma mater, Claremont McKenna College, they gave me the nomination for my party, and it's been a very, very exciting time.

I also want to say, Mr. Speaker, that I express my appreciation to the very, very dedicated public servants in my office in California and my offices here in Washington for their commitment to do the best job possible to help me represent the people of California.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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WELCOMING PUBLIC BROADCASTING COMMUNITY TO CAPITOL HILL THIS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE announced that she wouldn't run for reelection—not that she couldn't win, but that she didn't want to, not in this environment. This storied representative will be a loss to the institution here. But it doesn't have to be that way, Mr. Speaker.

This week on Capitol Hill we have friends who have joined us from the public broadcasting community, representing public television stations across the country. Today, the Women's Garden Club of America are here in force.

Now, these are people that have an approach that can help us unwind the problems that we have here in Congress. Public broadcasting is America's voice, and for most of America it's the only locally owned and managed source of news and local interest. It's commercial free. It is focused on our kids, our culture, our environment.

Last year, amidst the Tea Party effort to defund public broadcasting, we had a poll that showed 78 percent of Americans wanted the funding to remain the same or be increased. Two-thirds of Republicans wanted it to be held steady or increased. Now, from this year's budget it hopefully appears that we've dodged that bullet—maybe some people have come to their senses. Americans were heard from coast to coast: Don't play games with public broadcasting.

We've got a few minor holes in the President's budget, but I hope we can come together in a bipartisan way, listen to Americans, listen to these representatives, and do it right.

With the Women's Garden Club of America, we have a group—primarily women—who are focused not just on a garden club, but a fight for civic improvement through the connection to nature and to one another. Their work in policy is broad and deep. Their position papers on supporting clean air, clean water, climate change, public lands take issues that around here get lost in a partisan theological fog and make clear why they're important, how to represent American interests, and not the narrow theological, the partisan that get us bogged down.

□ 1010

Mr. Speaker, I hope that Members will listen to groups like our public broadcasting supporters and the Garden Club about simple, commonsense approaches to support fundamental American values and get off the partisan merry-go-round. We should listen to them. We should work with them. America will be a better place, and so will Congress.

HONORING FIRST LADY PATRICIA NIXON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. I rise today to celebrate the centennial of the birth of First Lady Patricia Nixon. The Nixon library in southern California will present a major exhibit about Mrs. Nixon's life opening March 16, and the National Archives here in Washington will host a forum on Mrs. Nixon's work in the international arena in April.

Thelma Catherine Ryan was born on the eve of St. Patrick's Day on March 16, 1912, in Ely, Nevada, a mining town. Her father, William Ryan, called her his St. Patrick's babe in the morn, so she was called Pat within hours of her birth. The Ryans moved to southern California for a better life and settled on a small truck farm in Artesia near Los Angeles. Orphaned early, her mother, Kate Halberstadt Bender Ryan, died in 1924, and her father in 1929, the year she was graduated from high school.

A young person of tremendous courage and determination, Mrs. Nixon had her heart set on higher education and worked continually to secure the necessary funds. She drove an elderly couple to the east coast and worked as an X-ray technician in New York. Returning west, she was graduated cum laude from the University of Southern California in 1937.

While attending USC, she held part-time jobs on campus and was a department store sales clerk and a Hollywood extra, appearing in several motion pictures, including the 1935 film, "Becky Sharp."

Mrs. Nixon taught at Whittier High School in the late 1930s, where she met her husband, who had returned to his hometown to practice law after graduating from Duke Law School. Patricia Ryan and Richard Nixon were married in 1940 and, as was true of so many couples their age, she worked here at home while her husband served in the military in World War II as a naval officer in the Pacific.

Mrs. Nixon campaigned with her husband as he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1946 and 1948 and to the United States Senate in 1950. There's a charming photograph of the Nixons with their infant daughter, Tricia, taken at the Tidal Basin with the cherry blossoms in bloom in the spring of 1947. Julie, their younger daughter, was born the following year.

With her husband's election as Vice President on Dwight Eisenhower's ticket in 1952, Mrs. Nixon became the Second Lady of the land. The Nixons traveled extensively, including for more than 2 months in Asia and the Pacific in 1953, and to South America in 1958, where the couple demonstrated tremendous courage in Caracas while being attacked by a Communist mob, and to the Soviet Union in 1959.

Mrs. Nixon campaigned gallantly in 1960, returning to private life in Cali-

fornia and then New York and proudly held the Nixon family Bible when Richard Nixon was inaugurated the 37th President in 1969.

During the Presidential years, the First Lady was truly our Ambassador of Goodwill, visiting South Vietnam, an active combat zone, in 1969; an earthquake-ravaged Peru in 1970; and China, in the groundbreaking trip of 1972. Mrs. Nixon was responsible for the gift from the Chinese of the two giant pandas to the American people. She traveled to more than 80 countries and five continents during her life.

As First Lady, Mrs. Nixon encouraged volunteer service, the spirit of people helping people. She added 600 paintings and antiques to the White House collection, illuminated the White House at night, and opened the White House gardens to the public.

Mrs. Nixon's service to the Nation extended over many years. Only Dolly Madison, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Hillary Clinton, among our First Ladies, have served the country as long as Patricia Nixon.

Laid to rest in 1993 on the grounds of the Nixon library at Yorba Linda, California, Mrs. Nixon's grave marker reads: "Even when people can't speak your language, they can tell if you have love in your heart." Patricia Ryan Nixon had love in her heart and now, at her 100th birthday, we remember her for her devotion to family, her grace and perseverance, and her patriotism to the United States of America.

HONORING STANLEY ELLSWORTH PETERSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BOSWELL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOSWELL. Mr. Speaker, today I stand before the 112th Congress to recognize and honor Mr. Stanley E. Peterson for his 40 years of service to the United States as an officer in the United States Navy, and as a supervisor in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and as the chief of police in Youngstown, Ohio.

My intention is to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the true history of this great American patriot and dismiss the lies and innuendoes told by an expelled former Member, dismissed by the 107th Congress for his conviction in Federal court of taking bribes and kickbacks.

Stanley E. Peterson was the youngest recruit to the Federal Bureau of Investigation under Director J. Edgar Hoover in 1947. Like his fellow special agents, he lived his life according to the motto of the FBI: "Fidelity, Bravery and Integrity," and its core values: rigorous obedience to the Constitution of the United States; respect for the dignity of those protected; compassion; fairness; uncompromising personal integrity and institutional integrity; accountability by accepting responsibility for his actions and decisions, as well as consequences for his actions